

## Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SCS-03 SCCT-02 AID-20

CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-07

SP-03 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01

A-01 OMB-01 SS-20 SY-04 CU-04 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 020158

O R 041200Z JUN 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6350

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 7619

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CB

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR KILLED  
WHILE HELD BY STUDENT PROTESTORS

1. MINISTER OF EDUCATION KEO SANGKIM AND PRESIDENTIAL  
ADVISOR AND FORMER MINISTER THACH CHIA WERE SHOT OR  
STABBED TO DEATH THIS AFTERNOON (JUNE 4) ABOUT 1600 HOURS  
WHILE BEING HELD BY STUDENT AGITATORS AT ONE OF PRINCIPAL  
PHNOM PENH LYCEES. FOLLOWING IS A RECONSTRUCTION OF  
EVENTS AS REPORTED BY FANK, EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE AND  
AMERICAN JOURNALISTS AT SCENE.

2. AT ABOUT 0800 THIS MORNING, SOME 200 STUDENT  
PROTESTORS GATHERED AT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, PUSHED  
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THEMSELVES INTO THE UNGUARDED BUILDING AND AT 0930 FORCED

MINISTER OF EDUCATION KEO SANGKIM AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR THACH CHIA TO MARCH WITH THEM TO MARCH 18 HIGH SCHOOL (LYCEE 18 MARS) SOME TEN BLOCKS AWAY. AT ABOUT 1500 STUDENTS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH THEY ANNOUNCED THAT THE TWO OFFICIALS WOULD BE HELD UNTIL NINE ARRESTED TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WERE RELEASED. THERE WERE FEW SIGNS OF OVERT STUDENT HOSTILITY TOWARDS THEIR TWO PRISONERS AND BOTH KEO SANGKIM AND THACH CHIA INDICATED TO REPORTERS PRESENT THAT THEY BELIEVED WAY TO HOSPITAL, SUFFERED BOTH SHOT AND STAB WOUNDS. (LATTER COULD, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN INFLICTED AFTER THACH CHIA REMOVED FROM ROOM).

6. AP CORRESPONDENT REPORTS THAT TWO STUDENTS WERE KILLED AND FIVE INJURED. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THESE CASUALTIES. GENDARMERIE OFFICERS TOLD EMBASSY LOCAL THAT AS OF LATE AFTERNOON SEVERAL STUDENTS WITH CARBINES WERE HOLED UP IN LYCEE INFIRMARY. OCCASIONAL SHOOTING COULD BE HEARD. WE HAVE REPORT THAT APPROXIMATELY 100 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

COMMENT: IT IS AT THIS POINT DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE HOW KEO SANGKIM AND THACH CHIA WERE KILLED. KILLING WAS QUITE CLEARLY NOT REPEAT NOT ACCIDENT, HOWEVER, AND IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT SECURITY FORCES WOULD HAVE AIMED THEIR GUNS AT THEM. WE THEREFORE CONCLUDE THAT BOTH MEN WERE KILLED BY STUDENTS OR COMMUNIST INFILTRATORS EITHER WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE BUILDING IN WHICH THEY WERE HELD. STUDENTS ARE, HOWEVER, ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR TODAY'S TRAGIC EVENTS AND PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF THIS FACT WILL PROBABLY HURT THEIR CAUSE.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR KILLED WHILE HELD BY STUDENT PROTESTORS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, CB, (KEO SANGKIN), (THACH CHIA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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